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From: Sayles, Gregory
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RECENTLY

ORD continues to support response to Gold King Mine blowout

ORD continues to play a critical support role in EPA's response to this blowout of mine waste in Colorado. ORD researchers Kevin Garrahan, Emily Snyder, Tonya Nichols and Erin Silvestri have manned the ORD Desk at the HQ Emergency Operations Center (EOC) since Tuesday, August 11, representing ORD at various EOC meetings including gatherings of Unified Command's Environmental Unit, and assisting with data review and interpretation (see photo of Garrahan at the ORD Desk). In response to requests for technical capabilities, ORD demonstrated that we can respond swiftly by promptly offering laboratory capacity and technical expertise in field assays, fate and transport in surface and groundwater and in sediments, eco and human health, drinking water treatment, and modeling. ORD's reachback capability (our RACER process), coordinated by Eric Koglin, has been successful at quickly and effectively connecting technical support requests with the right expertise within ORD.



Visitors to NHSRC's Water Security Test Bed at Idaho National Lab

This week, visitors from the Department of Homeland Security's Security Management and Budget office and the National Cybersecurity & Communications Integration Center visited NHSRC's Water Security Test Bed (WSTB) in Idaho Falls, Idaho to tour the test bed, view the testing of mobile water treatment units, and to assess opportunities for collaboration. WSTB is a full scale replica of a municipal drinking water piping system that is built above ground to test water security technologies, decontamination technologies and the impact of cyber-attacks on a system. The WSTB was built in collaboration with and located at DOE's Idaho National Laboratory. Lek Kadeli and other ORD managers also attended the viewing.

OMB examiner Eric Rosenfield visits RTP labs

This week, OMB's Eric Rosenfield visited Research Triangle Park, NC, August 18-19, 2015 to meet with EPA staff and tour RTP labs. Rosenfield received an overview of EPA's Air, Climate and Energy, Homeland Security, Chemical Safety for Sustainability, and Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Programs. Eric was also given tours of the high bay including the homeland security's facility which includes the decontamination technology research labs and a room size chamber. These facilities are used to conduct research that supports cleanup after a wide-area contamination incident. Eric is the OMB examiner responsible for the entire EPA ORD portfolio.

UPCOMING

Homeland Security BOSC Subcommittee to meet in Cincinnati next week

EPA's Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) Homeland Security Subcommittee will meet face-to-face at EPA-Cincinnati August 25-27, 2015. At this first meeting of the new BSOC Subcommittee, the Subcommittee will address charge questions about the Homeland Security Research Program's design, research and engagement with EPA partners. This meeting with the BOSC will allow HJSRP to receive high-level advice on how the program operates while the Subcommittee members grow in their understanding of the program's mission and the research that is conducted. Presentations, poster sessions, a tools café, and a partner panel discussion are planned. Kathy Nickel has led the large effort to prepare for this meeting; Tom Tracy is the Designated Federal Official. HSRP will engage this Subcommittee often over the next several years.

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